

Message Text

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ACTION ERDA-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7133

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, MX

SUBJ: GOM REQUEST FOR US. URANIUM EXPERT(S) FOR MONTH OF JUNE

1. SUMMARY: IN COMMUNICATION JUST RECEIVED GOM INTERAGENCY ENERGY COMMISSION ADVISES OF CREATION OF SPECIAL GROUP TO DO MONTH-LONG STUDY OF URANIUM SITUATION WITH COLLABORATION OF PANEL OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS, INCLUDING ONE OR TWO FROM US. AT GOM EXPENSE. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS FAVORABLE ERDA ACTION SOONEST. END SUMMARY.

2. ING. JUAN EIBENSCHUTZ ADVISED SCICOUNS APRIL 8 THAT ON MARCH 31 HE ASSUMED POST OF SECRETARY OF COMISION DE ENERGETICOS (INTERAGENCY COMMISSION UNDER SECRETARIAT OF NATIONAL PATRIMONY - SEPANAL) CONFIRMING EMBASSY ADVANCE NOTICE TO DEPARTMENT.

3. AT SAME TIME EIBENSCHUTZ ADVISED THAT COMMISSION, PURSUANT RECOMMENDATION OF INEN, HAS NOW CREATED A QUOTE GROUP FOR THE EVALUATION OF URANIUM RESERVES UNQUOTE, CHARGED WITH:

A) REVIEW OF GEOLOGIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN INEN ON URANIUM DEPOSITS (INCLUDING FIELD TRIPS)

B) VERIFICATION OF RESERVES

C) ANALYSIS OF THE ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF EXPLOITATION.

4. NEW GROUP CONSISTS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF:

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COUNCIL OF NON RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMISSION FOR
PROMOTION OF MINING ENERGY COMMISSION (SEPANAL)

TO WHICH GOM WISHES ADD PANEL OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS,
EXCLUSIVELY FROM CANADA, FRANCE AND THE US.

5. EIGENSCHUTZ STATED THEY CALCULATE STUDY WILL TAKE
ONE MONTH, HOPE IT CAN BE CARRIED OUT JOINTLY IN JUNE.
GOM WILL COVER EXPENSES.

6. GOM PRESENTLY EXPLORING SIMULTANEOUSLY THROUGH
CANADIAN, FRENCH AND US. EMBASSIES POSSIBILITY OF
OBTAINING SERVICES OF EXPERTS IN THE THREE FIELDS OF
MAJOR INTEREST: URANIUM EXPLORATION, EXPLOITATION
AND METALLURGICAL TREATMENT. AT BEST THEY HOPE TO
FIND ONE MAN IN EACH COUNTRY QUALIFIED IN ALL THREE,
ALTHOUGH THEY REALIZE THIS UNLIKELY.

7. IN FOLLOW-UP ON CONVERSATION SCICOUNS RECALLED
THAT US GEOLOGIST AND URANIUM EXPLORATION SPECIALIST,
USAEC RETIREE JOHN KING, SPENT SOME 15-18 MONTHS IN
MEXICO AS IAEA URANIUM EXPERT DURING 1972-73 PERIOD,
WORKING WITH INEN. EIBENSCHUTZ CHECKED WITH INEN AND
REPORTED BACK THAT KING WOULD BE MOST WELCOME SINCE HE
IS QUALIFIED, KNOWS THE URANIUM SITUATION IN MEXICO
AND IS OBJECTIVE IN HIS VIEWPOINT. WERE HE TO BE
AVAILABLE A SECOND US EXPERT IN THE ECONOMIC EVALUATION
AREA WOULD BE WANTED.

8. EMBASSY COMMENT. IT WOULD APPEAR MOST DESIRABLE
FOR ERDA TO REACT IMMEDIATELY AND FAVORABLY TO PRESENT
REQUEST AND EMBASSY SO RECOMMENDS. IT IS NOTEWORTHY
THAT ENERGY COMMISSION IS NOT REPEAT NOT USING THE
TRADITIONAL TRILATERAL APPROACH, I. E. REQUEST FOR A
US. EXPERT TO BE PROVIDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL AGENCY.
PRESUMABLY THEY USING DIRECT APPROACH SO THAT THEY CAN
CONTROL THE SELECTION OF THE EXPERT.
FYI. EIBENSCHUTZ INFORMALLY EXPANDED ON THE TEXT OF
THE BACKUP MEMORANDUM WHICH HE SENT TO THE EMBASSY
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UNDER DATE OF APRIL 8. IT SEEMS THAT THERE IS CONSIDER-
ABLE DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE ENERGY COMMISSION ITSELF
AS TO WHAT THE ACTUAL URANIUM SITUATION IS AS WELL AS
TO THE ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF GOM EMBARKING ON
URANIUM PROCESSING. HENCE THE DESIRABILITY OF INTER-
NATIONAL EXPERT PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY. END FYI.
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